

LYNNWOOD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
December 3, 2014

10. Call to Order. *A quorum was not present at the meeting. No official action could be taken.*

20. Roll Call

Boardmember Gilbertson
Boardmember Hildebrandt
Boardmember Megill

Director Sordel
Deputy Director Olson
Administrative Assistant Flesher

Councilmember Goodwin

Board Applicant Monica Thompson

30. Approval of Minutes. July 2, September 16 and November 5. Postponed.

40. Written Communications – None.

50. Public Comments – None.

60. Comments from Boardmembers.

Boardmember Gilbertson mentioned the joint presentations by Arts Commission representatives, Boardmember Hildebrandt and himself. He hopes that this type of engagement can continue.

Boardmember Hildebrandt agreed. There was ample opportunity to engage with Council in 2014.

Boardmember Megill apologized for his lack of attendance. He has been following emails from Boardmembers and staff. He understands that Boardmembers Hildebrandt and Gilbertson did a commendable job and appreciates their dedication.

70. Resolutions and Other Business.

70.1 City Comprehensive Plan – Parks, Rec & Open Space Element. Deputy Director Olson presented the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Element of the City Comprehensive Plan. She noted that the department is also participating in a new Community Character chapter which includes arts, historic, healthy communities and sustainability. This will be a discussion item in January.

70.2 PARC Plan Survey Questions Review. Deputy Director Olson reported that the survey will be distributed to 3,000 English and Spanish-speaking citizens with an expected response rate of 500. The Board reviewed the proposed survey questions. Deputy Director Olson noted that Recreation staff would also provide review of the survey questions.

Boardmember Megill suggested the survey include an explanation of the “PARC” acronym.

Boardmember Hildebrandt suggested that Question 3 provide some background information to help users better understand what the various funding options mean.

Deputy Director Olson noted that, with Question 4, staff is struggling to decide whether to include a laundry list of specific capital projects or make the question a bit more generic and list types of projects and amenities. Councilmember Goodwin suggested that including specific projects might resonate with respondents and encourage them to complete the survey. Boardmember Gilbertson concurred. Boardmember Hildebrandt suggested that leaving park names in the question will make it a popularity contest.

Board Applicant Thompson noted that the map in the earlier outreach survey had been unreadable. Deputy Director Olson noted that the map for the survey would be the same one available in outreach version. Board Applicant Thompson suggested that it include either a link or a version of the map that can be enlarged.

Boardmembers suggested that Question 5 reflect that people living in the MUGA “may” eventually be annexed into Lynnwood.

Boardmember Megill asked why adult sports aren’t included in Question 7 pertaining to recreational programs. Deputy Director Olson noted that there isn’t a meaningful way to expand in that area in the near future because we don’t have adequate facilities at this time. An adequate facility involves Phase II of the Recreation Center, for which more extensive surveys/outreach would be required. Staff is trying to obtain information that is applicable to the writing of the comprehensive plan for the next ten years.

There was general dislike of Question 8 among the group.

Board Applicant Thompson suggested clarification of Question 9 regarding public art “for free.”

Boardmember Hildebrandt mentioned Question 11 regarding City government support of arts, noting that there were not similar questions regarding parks or recreation programs. She suggested reworking the group of funding questions to make the language consistent.

Deputy Director Olson will accept additional comments until December 15. The final version of the survey will be available at the January 7 meeting.

80. Staff Reports.

80.1 Status of Vacancies. Director Sordel reported that Steve Hanson and Monica Thompson would be officially appointed by City Council on December 8. Deputy Director Olson noted that Board and Commission training would be coming in 2015. Director Sordel suggested an orientation for new members of the Board.

80.2 Budget Update/Department Reorganization. Director Sordel reported that the Budget Group had worked very closely with the Mayor, City Council and community during the budget process. He is optimistic that City Council will adopt a budget on December 8. He discussed some of the highlights in the budget for the department.

Director Sordel presented the draft organizational chart for the upcoming reorganization of the Recreation division necessitated by the layoff of a full-time staff member. Deputy Director Olson explained some of the changes reflected in the organizational chart. The reorganization suits the direction in which the department is moving for the future.

Boardmember Gilbertson noted that the department has continued to downsize as demand has increased. He asked if the department had missed opportunities for grant funding due to the loss of former Parks Planner Cowan. He expressed concern about not being in position to act on opportunities for grant funding for projects or land acquisition.

Director Sordel expressed that his staff has concerns about staffing capacities and the sustainability of the organization. Boardmember Gilbertson noted that the general fund cannot be the only source of funding. Board Applicant Thompson suggested that codes need to be changed to allow for mitigation fees, etc. Boardmember Gilbertson asked if City Council has those kinds of conversations.

80.3 2015 Department Work Plan. Director Sordel reviewed the draft work plan for 2015.

90. Messages from the City Council. Councilmember Goodwin thanked Boardmembers for their input on the budget. It is good to have the ideas from the community. It was invaluable to hear from the Ad Hoc group. It is great to have people come forward with passion and great ideas.

100. Adjournment – The meeting ended at 9:10 p.m.